

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A. In the Specification

The amendments to the specification, including the Abstract, are only of formal nature, in order to introduce titles per in MPEP 608.01(a), and to revise the language to American English usage. No new matter has been added.

Because the specification does not include paragraph numbers, reference has been made to the page and line numbers in patent application PCT/EP2003/050724.

C. In the Claims

Claims 1-58 are pending in the present application. Therefore, upon entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 1-58 will be subject to examination.

As in the specification, American English usage has also been introduced in the language of the claims. Additionally, the claims have been amended to comply with MPEP formatting requirements. For examples, proper usage of the articles "a" and "the" has been introduced; multiple dependencies have been eliminated; punctuation has been revised; proper antecedent terminology has been introduced; and, in general, flow of the language has been rearranged to conform to U.S. claim drafting format. No new matter has been added.

All amendments to the claims are introduced herein for formal reasons only. More particularly, no restrictions in the scope and in the breadth of the original claims are introduced nor are intended.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted herein, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If it is felt for any reason that direct communication would serve to advance prosecution of the present application in this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent of record, Franco A. Serafini, by telephone, fax, or e-mail.

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Respectfully submitted,

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